



City of La Porte

Established 1892

Police Department

Recognized as a Best Practices Agency by
the Texas Association of Police Chiefs



January 11th, 2017

To: La Porte City Council
Thru: Corby Alexander, City Manager
From: Kenith Adcox, Chief of Police
Subject: Racial Profiling Report for the La Porte Police Department

Honorable Council Members:

The following report is provided in accordance with Article 2.132 (7) of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures. The Code requires that the police department annually report, to its governing body, data collected on the race or ethnicity of individuals stopped for traffic violations and subsequently cited, searched and/or arrested. Reporting must take place on or before March 1st of each year.

The following report meets this requirement by providing a detailed analysis of the La Porte Police Department's policies, training, and statistical information on racial profiling for the year 2016. To assist City Council in their examination of the included data, detailed demographic data has also been provided relating to the City of La Porte, Harris County, and the State of Texas.

For the purposes of this report and analysis, the following definition of racial profiling is used: *racial profiling means a law enforcement-initiated action based on an individual's race, ethnicity, or national origin rather than on the individual's behavior or on information identifying the individual as having engaged in criminal activity (Texas CCP Article 3.05).*

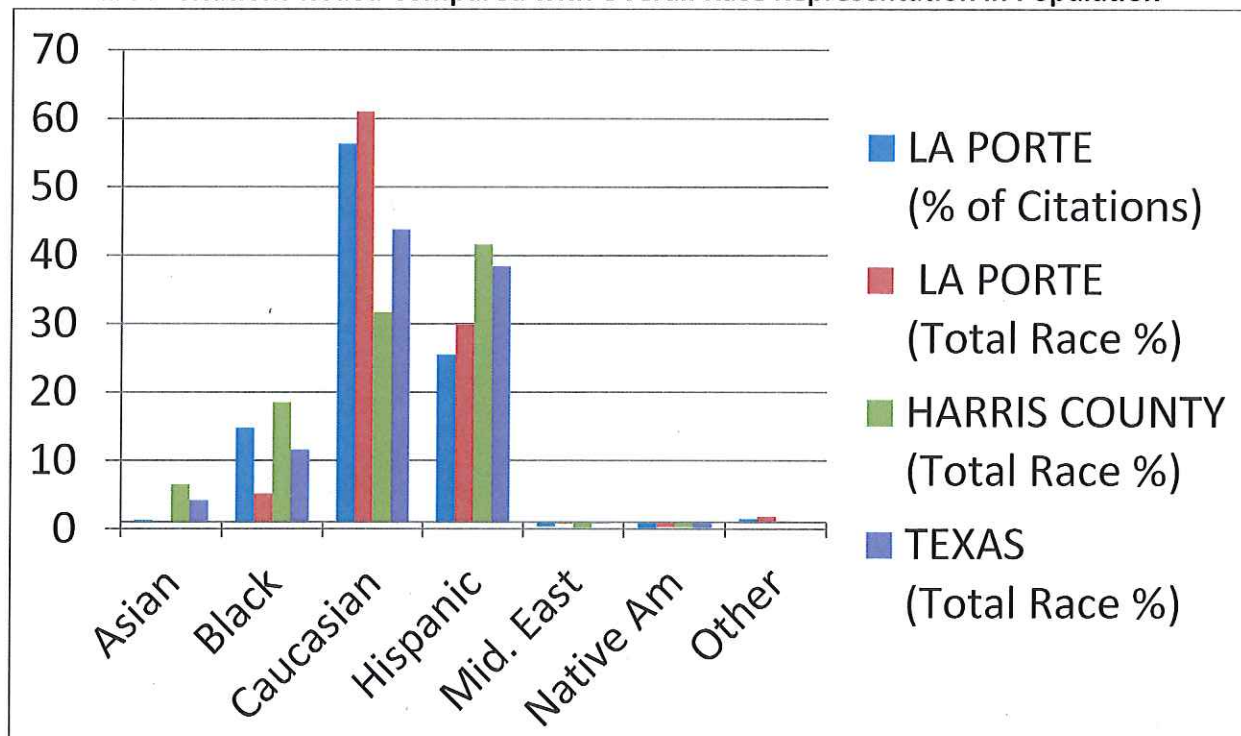
La Porte Police Department Policy/ Training on Racial Profiling

A review of La Porte Police Department regulation 314 and 401.2.6 provide evidence that the department has adopted policies in compliance with Article 2.132 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. There are several specific requirements mandated by Article 2.132 that a law enforcement agency's Racial Profiling Policy must address. Each of these requirements are covered in the La Porte Police Department's Racial Profiling Policy, which provides clear direction that any form of racial profiling is prohibited and that officers found engaging in inappropriate profiling may be disciplined up to and including termination. The regulations also provide a very clear statement of the agency's philosophy regarding equal treatment of all persons regardless of race or ethnicity. All members of the La Porte Police Department have received formal training required by the State of Texas relating to Racial Profiling and have been provided, and signed for copies of, the departmental policy in question. Additionally, the policy is required to be reviewed with all employees by supervisors on a bi-annual basis.

La Porte Police Department Statistical Data on Racial Profiling

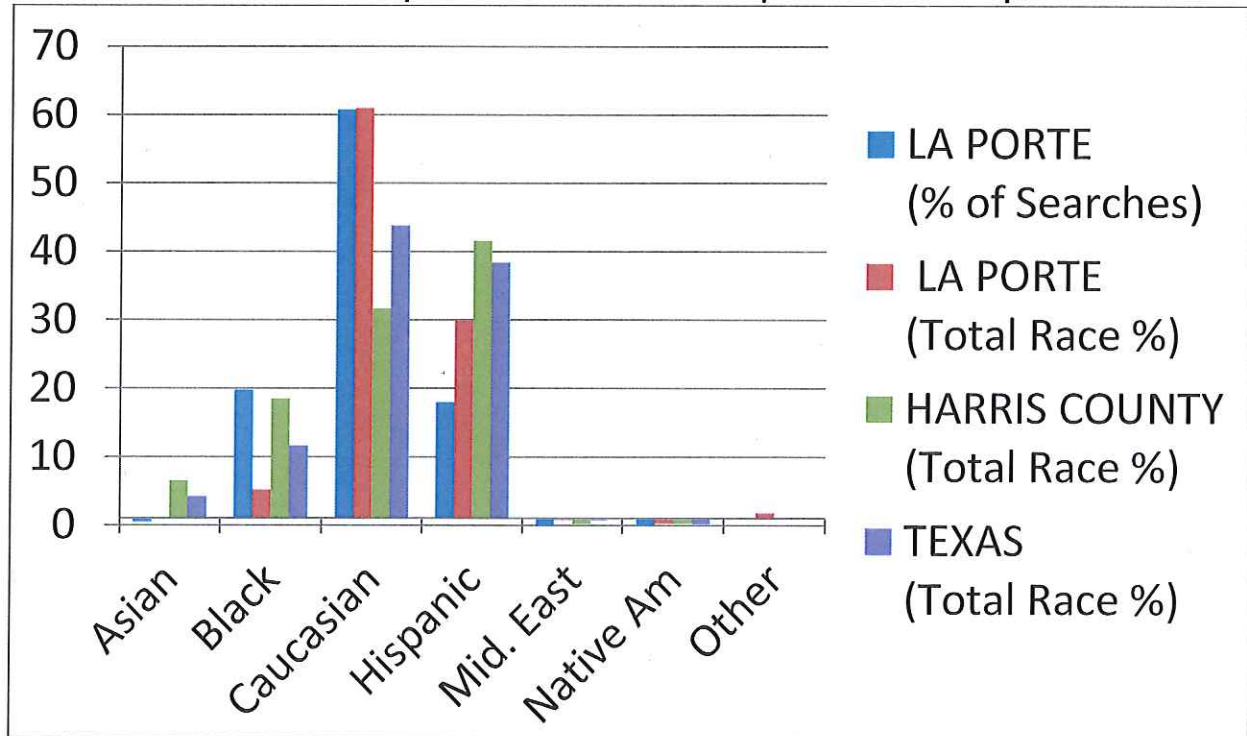
In accordance with Departmental Policy, Officers of La Porte Police Department submitted statistical information on all contacts made with motorists in 2016 and accompanying information on the race of the person contacted. This data has been aggregated and is presented in the below tables, accompanied by relevant information on searches, arrests, and demographic information.

LPPD Citations Issued Compared with Overall Race Representation in Population



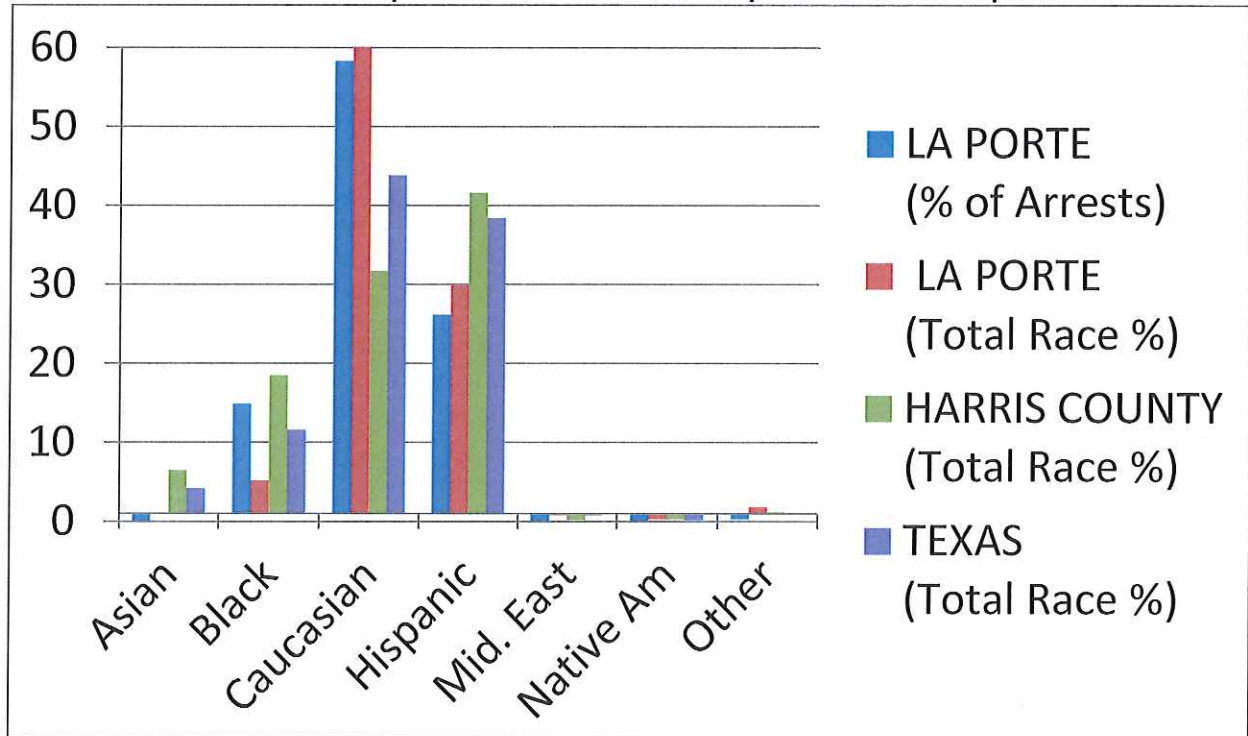
Race	La Porte PD Motorist Citations	LPPD Percent Contacted by Race	La Porte Population Representation	Harris County Population Representation	Texas Population Representation
Asian	163	1.3%	1.0%	6.5%	4.2%
Black	1,818	14.8%	5.2%	18.5%	11.6%
Caucasian	6,942	56.3%	61.0%	31.7%	43.8%
Hispanic	3,133	25.5%	29.9%	41.6%	38.4%
Mid. East	54	0.4%	0.8%	0.2%	0.8%
Native Am	25	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Other	188	1.5%	1.8%	1.2%	1.0%
Total	12,315	100%	100%	100%	100%

LPPD Searches Compared with Overall Race Representation in Population



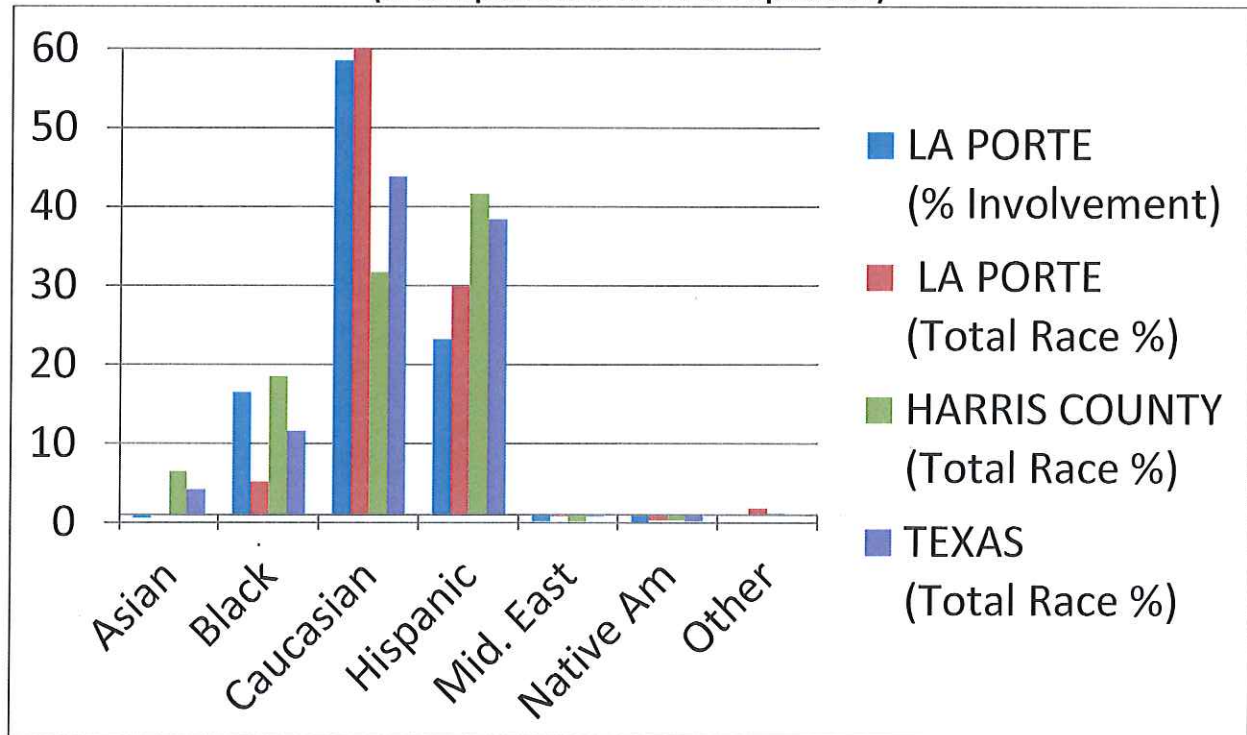
Race	LPPD Searches	Without Consent	With Consent	LPPD Percent Searched by Race	La Porte Population Representation	Harris County Population Representation	Texas Population Representation
Asian	1	1	0	0.5%	1.0%	6.5%	4.2%
Black	42	24	18	19.8%	5.2%	18.5%	11.6%
Caucasian	129	85	44	60.8%	61.0%	31.7%	43.8%
Hispanic	38	26	12	18.0%	29.9%	41.6%	38.4%
Mid. East	0	0	0	0.0%	0.8%	0.2%	0.8%
Native Am	0	0	0	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Other	2	2	0	0.9%	1.8%	1.2%	1.0%
Total	212	138	74	100%	100%	100%	100%

LPPD Arrests Compared with Overall Race Representation in Population



Race	LPPD Arrests	La Porte PD Percent Arrested by Race	La Porte Population Representation	Harris County Population Representation	Texas Population Representation
Asian	1	0.1%	1.0%	6.5%	4.2%
Black	186	14.9%	5.2%	18.5%	11.6%
Caucasian	726	58.3%	61.0%	31.7%	43.8%
Hispanic	326	26.2%	29.9%	41.6%	38.4%
Mid. East	1	0.1%	0.8%	0.2%	0.8%
Native Am	1	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Other	4	0.3%	1.8%	1.2%	1.0%
Total	1,245	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Overall involvement by Race for LPPD Contacts and Arrests
(In Comparison to La Porte Population)**



Race	La Porte PD % of Race Involvement	La Porte Population Representation	Harris County Population Representation	Texas Population Representation
Asian	0.6%	1.0%	6.5%	4.2%
Black	16.5%	5.2%	18.5%	11.6%
Caucasian	58.5%	61.0%	31.7%	43.8%
Hispanic	23.2%	29.9%	41.6%	38.4%
Mid. East	0.2%	0.8%	0.2%	0.8%
Native Am	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Other	0.9%	1.8%	1.2%	1.0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

The above statistics seem to indicate that Black drivers were contacted, searched, and arrested incident to traffic violations at a rate higher than the percentage of their respective residency within the City of La Porte. While noticeable, easy determinations regarding whether or not La Porte officers have "racially profiled" a given motorist are difficult given the fact that many drivers stopped by police officers are not residents of La Porte and may be traveling within or through the City from other areas of the county/state/country. As detailed above, these areas are much more highly represented by minority populations and may therefore account for larger percentages of non-resident traffic offenders, making comparisons relating strictly to La Porte area populations impractical.

Nevertheless, in the interest of being thorough, the police department made a statistical inquiry through the City's Municipal Court in order to determine actual traffic citations written to La Porte residents, along with respect to percentages by driver's race. Findings revealed, overall, only 21% of all traffic stops conducted by LPPD involved the citing of La Porte residents. This equates, approximately, to only 1 of every 5 citations being written to local residents. Otherwise stated, almost 4 of every 5 traffic stops involve drivers who do not live in the City. Furthermore, when broken down by driver race, the majority of citations were overwhelmingly issued to Caucasian drivers (77%). The remaining breakdown by race, regarding La Porte residents cited in 2016, were as follows: Black - 12%; Hispanic - 5%; Unknown Race - 3%; Asian, Middle Eastern, Native American, and Other - <1% per group.

Additionally, the absence of any verifiable race/ethnicity data on the driver's license is troubling given the possibility that officers may misclassify individuals. This is a particular problem when dealing with citizens who are of mixed racial decent. As such, the validity of any racial/ethnic disparities discovered in the aggregate level data becomes threatened in direct proportion to the number of subjective "guesses" officers are forced to make when trying to determine an individual's racial/ethnic background. This may account for why Hispanic drivers are represented at a rate far lower than local, county, and state population projections, while Caucasian and Black drivers are more highly represented. In other words, officers may, for example, be listing mixed race drivers as being Caucasian or Black, when these individuals may, for census purposes, have identified themselves as Hispanic.

Finally, it is important to note that the included census data represents 2015 and 2016 U.S. Census population figure estimates according to Demographic Profile Data of General Population and Housing Characteristics representing all age groups, yet does not take into account a specific combination of age and race regarding the percentage of the drivers who were actually stopped. Additionally, while the 2016 population figure estimates are represented, updates of the actual demographic statistics for are not yet available. Still, the La Porte Police Department is committed to providing public safety without bias of any type and will continue to closely track, monitor, and regulate employee activities in order to ensure that biased-based policing does not occur.

In summary, the foregoing analysis shows that the La Porte Police Department is fully in compliance with all relevant Texas laws concerning racial profiling, including the existence of a formal policy prohibiting racial profiling by its officers, officer training, and the collection of data in compliance with the law. Additionally, a review of internal administrative records indicated that during 2016 the department received no complaints that could be categorized as involving some type of racial profiling. As a result of this analysis, and the listed statistics, it is my belief that the officers of the La Porte Police Department are operating appropriately and without bias relating to individual violator race, ethnicity, or national origin.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kenith R. Adcox
Chief of Police